



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLANS

Creating a communication plan

- Designate an out-of-state contact person.
- Prearrange a meeting place for family members to reunite if separated during a disaster.
- Make sure everyone understands the communication plan.
- Write down emergency contact numbers and make sure every family member has a copy. It's also a good idea to keep a copy in your disaster kit.
- Text **"follow IDHS"** to **40404** to receive safety tips from IDHS through Twitter.

Tips for communicating during a disaster

Stay on the line: When a large number of people all try to make phone calls at the same time, the system capacity can be overwhelmed. When this happens on a landline you will hear a busy signal and be automatically placed in a waiting line. Do not hang up. Stay on the line until you hear a dial tone, then place your call as normal.

Try cell phones and land lines: Cell towers and land lines may not be affected equally. If you can't reach your loved one via cell phone, try using a land line, and vice versa.

Try Texting: Unlike cell phone calls which rely on a continuous signal, texting only requires a short signal burst to transmit the message. If a cell tower is damaged and only functioning intermittently, text messages may be able to get through when a call cannot.

In-state vs. Out-of-state: Sometimes when local cell towers and phone lines are overwhelmed it is easier to place long-distance calls. Try an out-of-state contact to relay messages.

Internet options: If internet capabilities are intact, communicating through email or social networking sites such as facebook and twitter may prove effective. You could also try registering through the Red Cross "Safe and Well" program which allows family members to update their status, and search for updates from loved ones.



For more information, visit

GetPrepared.IN.gov

